

**BLUAC Steering Committee**  
**April 6, 2006 Minutes**  
**bigforksteering.org**

In attendance: Chuck Gough, Sally Janover, Gary Ridderhoff, Pat Wagner, Paul J. Rana, George Darrow, John Bourquin, Elna Darrow, Paul Guerrant, Darrel Coverdell, Shelley Gonzales, Al Johnson, Craig D. Wagner, Buz Meyer, Don Loranger, Brett Thuma, Sue Hanson, Serena Keller, Steve Buenz, Mary Buenz.

Chairman Loranger called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM

Minutes of the 3/30/06 meeting were approved as mailed.

Treasurer Gonzales did not have a final report from the accountant. There are no major expenses or income for the month.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mary Buenz and Serena Keller gave a presentation of the community park planned for the open area owned by Flathead County in the Lake Hills and Crestview neighborhoods. The area is designated as park space, however does not have improvements. The area is approximately 4.5 acres, surrounded by homes. If not developed, the County has the option to sell the property and purchase property elsewhere as open space.

Development plans include playground equipment, a pavilion, restrooms, paved walking/bike path and a sledding hill. Plans also include consideration of a soft ball park if Potoczny Park is moved to accommodate a new County Library facility.

The group is soliciting private donations through the Citizens for a Better Bigfork. Cost of the entire project, to be completed in stages, is approximately \$200,000. The County has earmarked \$3,000, plus picnic tables and garbage receptacles. The County would install pit toilets. The group is negotiating with the county to install working toilets rather than pits since the Bigfork Sewer line runs adjacent to the property.

Elna Darrow offered the information that the County may maintain a building with working toilets if the structure is built by donations as is done at Sliter Park.

The group has also applied for national matching grants to help with funding. Those wishing more information regarding the park project may contact Mary Buenz at 837-3882 or mbuenz@montanasky.us.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Planning Sub-Committees:** Shelley Gonzales reported there are three reports to be completed from the sub-committees. Those are Public Facilities, Land Use and Natural Resources.

Don Loranger noted he had spoken with Jeff Harris, Director Flathead Planning Office, and Lisa Horowitz, regarding the draft format for neighborhood plans. Harris agreed to meet with Shelley and Don to go over the draft format.

Shelley presented copies of the Growth Policy Draft Outline available on the Flathead County website (co.flathead.mt.us). She feels we have been following the same outline in our sub-committee work. Harris also commented that basically all of Flathead County will be in one neighborhood plan or another.

#### **Election of BLUAC:**

Eda Taylor of the Bigfork School District has arranged for 3 judges for the May 2, 2006, election, which will include BLUAC, Bigfork Fire Department and FVCC.

Apparently, Clarice Ryan has suggested a person to act as one judge. Judges are paid \$6.50 per hour. Costs of the election are shared by all entities. The election will be held at the **Masonic Lodge on Hwy 35 in Bigfork, from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM.** Help will be needed for monitors, to pick up materials from the Election Office and to help set up.

Absentee ballots are available beginning April 12, 2006 and may be submitted up to 12:00 PM on May 1, 2006. Voter registration has closed for the election. Candidates for BLUAC seats include:

Shelley Gonzales (3-year seat)

Paul Guerrant (3-year seat)

Scott Hollinger (3-year seat)

Mary Jo Naïve (1-year seat)

#### **Candidate Forum:**

Sue Hanson reported that Katherine Head, editor of the Bigfork Eagle, has agreed to sponsor a **BLUAC Candidate Forum on April 13, 2006, 7:00 PM, at the Bigfork Middle School Gym.** Katherine will ask the candidates to introduce themselves and give the reasons they are running for committee seats. She will follow introductions with a list of questions for each candidate to answer. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Candidate Forum, and of course, vote on May 2!

#### **Announcements:**

The Bigfork Water & Sewer District will hold a public meeting on **April 20, 2006, 7:00 PM, at the Bethany Lutheran Church.** The meeting will discuss the future of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The engineer will cover the need to upgrade the 20-year old facility and expand for future needs. "It is essential that we continue to treat the waste water to the best that technology will allow to keep Flathead Lake pure."

The Greater Woods Bay Sewer Committee will hold a public meeting on **April 19, 2006, 7:00 PM at the Bethany Lutheran Church.** The area covered is between Mauzey Creek to the Lake County line. As required by Montana statute, the Committee is also exploring the feasibility of linking up with the Bigfork Water & Sewer District. For more information the website is yennepoint.org.

These announcements, as well as the minutes are posted on the BSC website.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:56 PM

Sue Hanson

Secretary